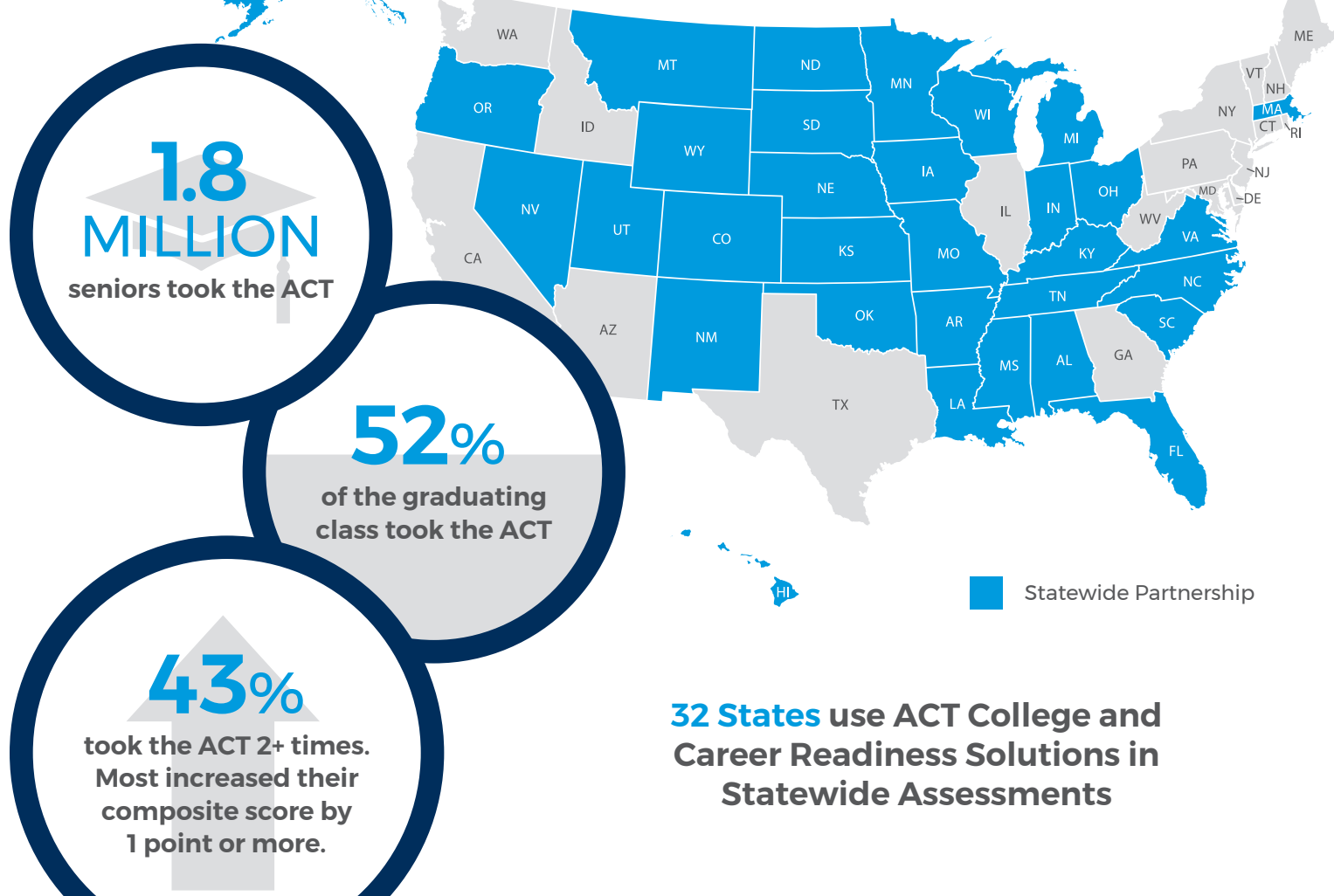


# THE CONDITION OF COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

2019

## ACT Test Outcomes from the 2019 US High School Graduating Class Relative to College and Career Readiness



## Removing Barriers for Low-Income Students

**487,749**

students received a fee waiver to take the ACT test for free.

**72%**

took advantage of their fee waiver in pursuit of their college admissions goals.

## State of College Readiness Based on ACT College Readiness Benchmarks

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by ACT College Readiness Benchmark Attainment and Subject

### ENGLISH



### READING



### MATH



### SCIENCE



Below Benchmark by 3+ Points Within 2 Points of Benchmark Met Benchmark

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are the minimum ACT test scores required for students to have a reasonable chance of success in first-year credit-bearing courses at a typical postsecondary institution.

## Benchmark Attainment → College Degree

Students Who Meet More ACT College Readiness Benchmarks Are More Likely to Attend College and Earn a Degree within Six Years

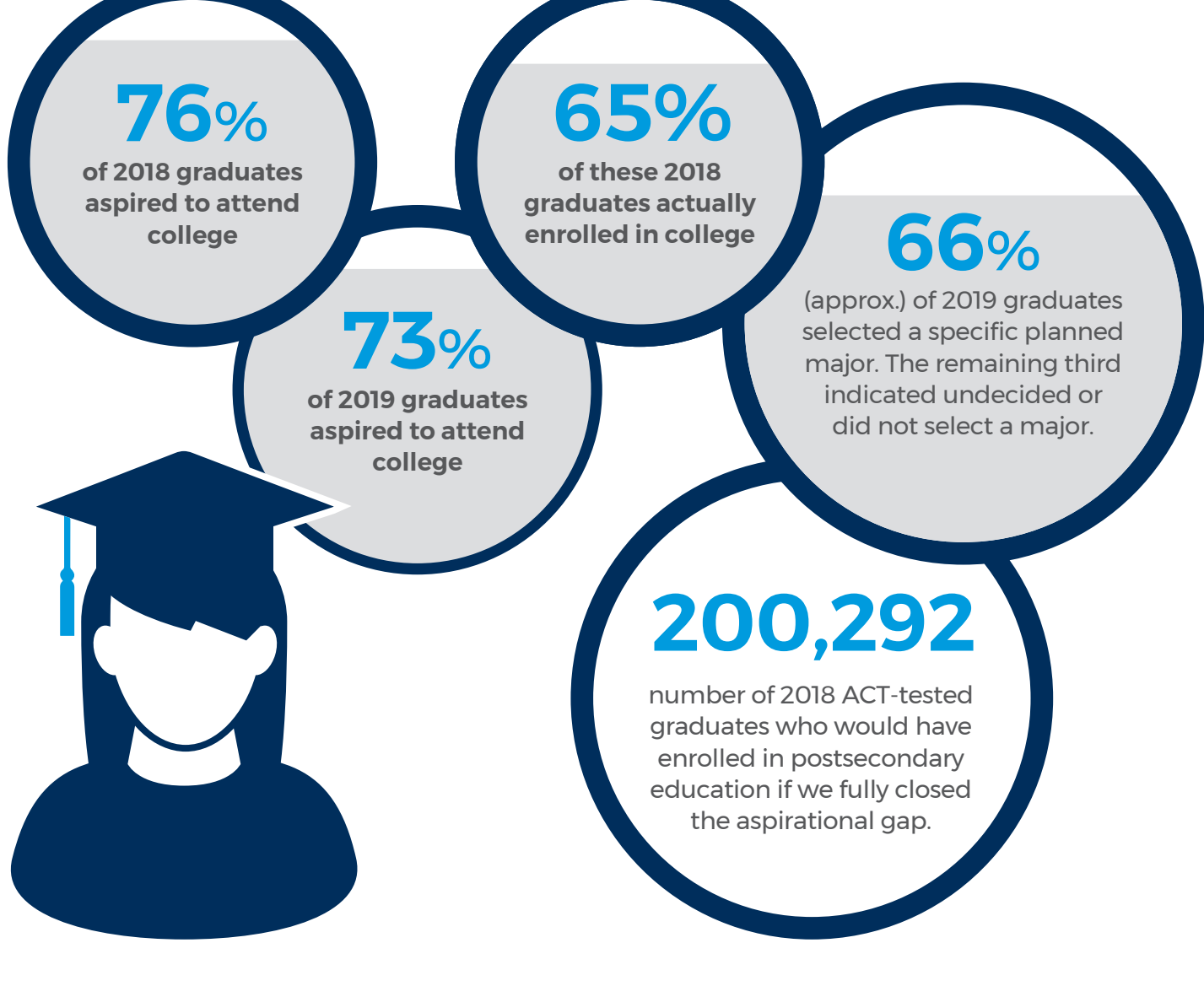
Out of every 10 high school graduates:

# who do not enroll in college # who enroll in college # who enroll in college and earn a degree



## Aspirations Beyond High School

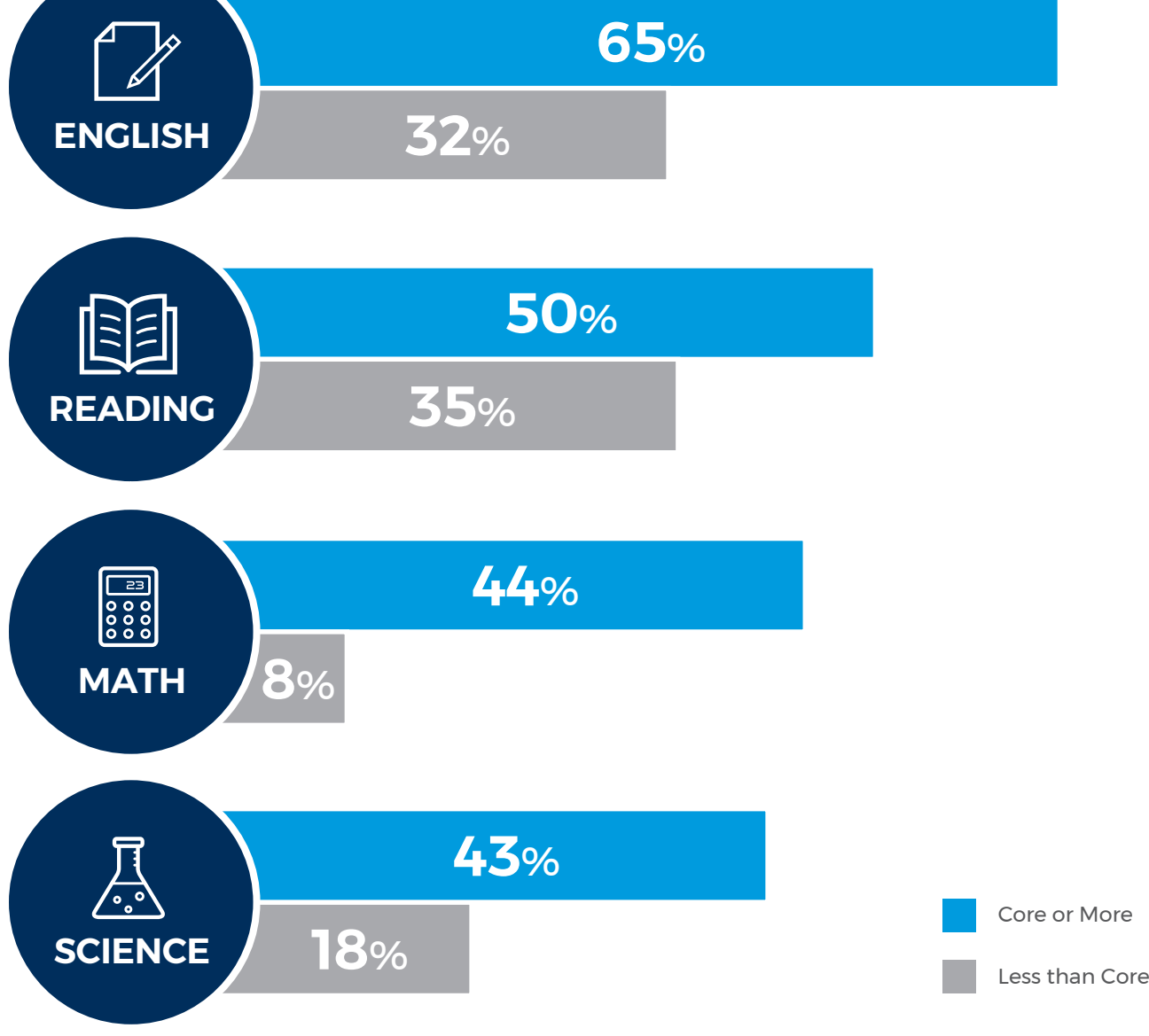
### Entering Higher Education



## Core Curriculum Increases Readiness

### College Readiness Rates are Higher for those who take the Recommended Core Curriculum

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates in Core or More vs. Less Than Core Courses Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks by Subject



A core curriculum is defined as four years of English and three years each of math, social studies, and science.

## STEM Interest

**43%**

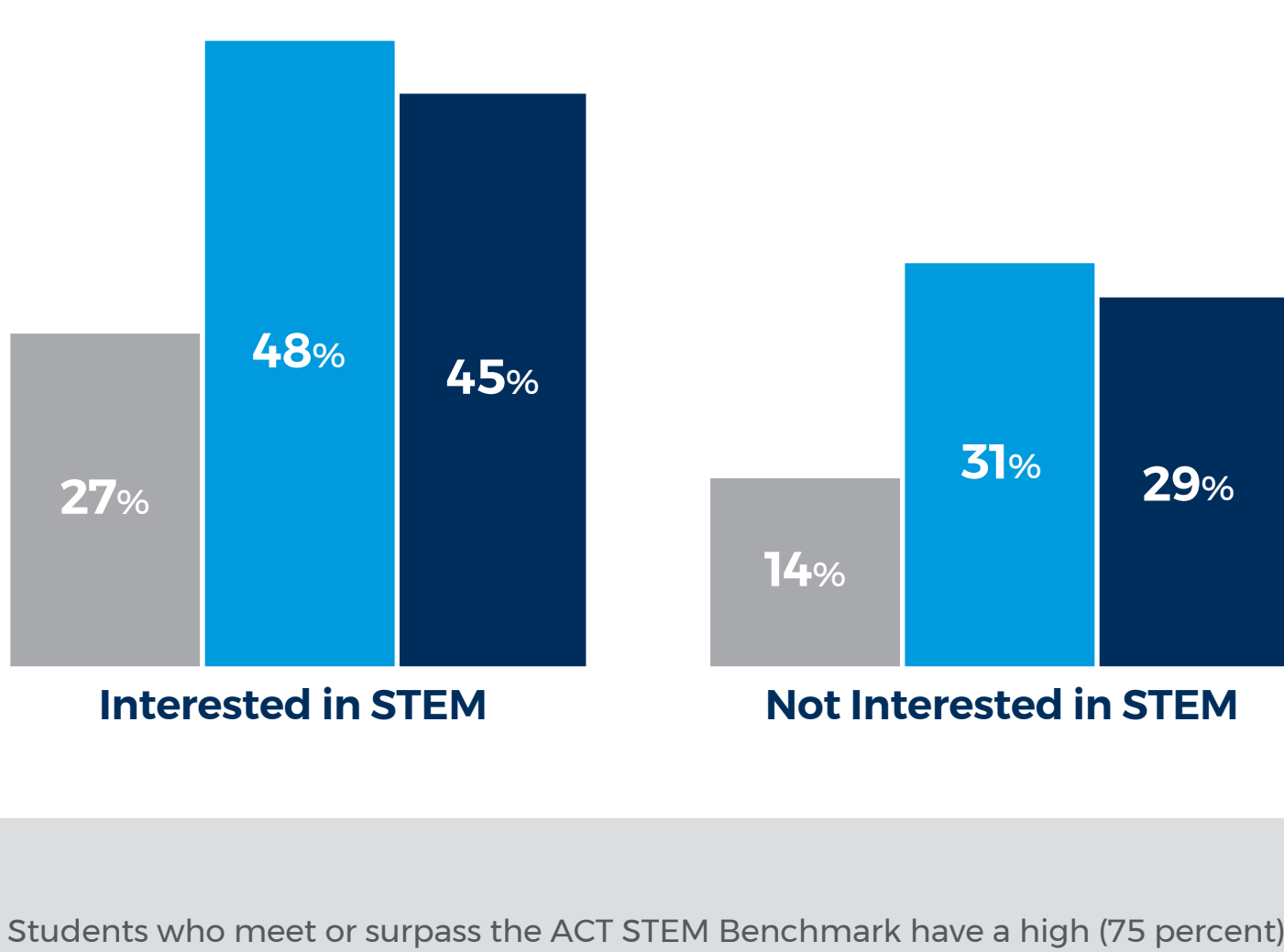
of 2019 graduates were interested in STEM careers

Another

**14%**

of students not indicating an interest in STEM met the STEM benchmark, representing more areas of career opportunity they may not have considered

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks by STEM Cohort

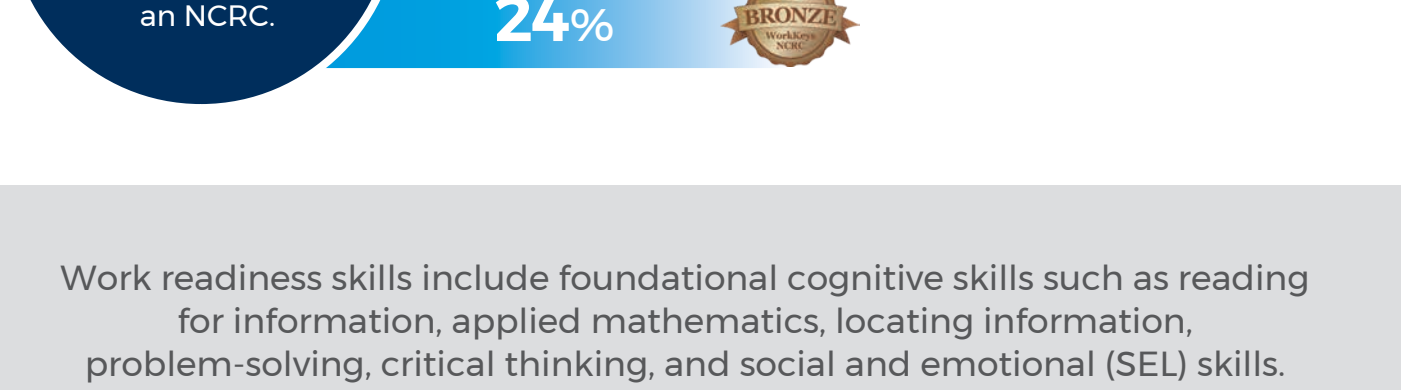


Students who meet or surpass the ACT STEM Benchmark have a high (75 percent) probability of earning a grade of C or higher in first-year college STEM courses such as calculus, biology, chemistry, and physics. They are also more likely to earn good grades, persist in a college STEM major, and earn a STEM-related bachelor's degree than those who didn't meet the benchmark.

## Entering the Workforce

### 41% of Graduates are Armed with Foundational Work Readiness Skills

Based on ACT Composite Scores these graduates would likely earn the following levels of the ACT® WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate® (NCRC®), an internationally recognized credential.



Work readiness skills include foundational cognitive skills such as reading for information, applied mathematics, locating information, problem-solving, critical thinking, and social and emotional (SEL) skills. Earning a Gold or Platinum NCRC demonstrates the individual has the foundational work readiness skills needed for more than nine out of 10 jobs recently profiled in the ACT JobPro® database.